

[I'm a Could-Have-Been]

Hyde Partnow [Direction?] Beliefs & Customs - Folk Stuff excellent No original I'M A COULD-HAVE-BEEN

I admit it, I'm a hog. In other words, human. I enjoy intercourse and a pair of doughnuts like anybody else. Say tomorrer I wake up I'm covered in communism, say I can go and get what I want by asking - I want six wives. You maybe want 24 suits and him they gotta give twelve yachts, otherwise he's miserable. We're nuts, we're all deprived so long we went nuts. Plain hogs. It's chemical, you can't do nothing. We're 90% water, H2O, and 10% other things - sodium helium oxygen hydrogen potassium phosphorus calcium and so forth. At the same time in this kinda world 2 plus 2 makes 5. Listen to what I'm gonna say to you now, carefully - the bacteria of primordial times is today the bacteriologist. Sh! Don't talk. Think that over Now. Look at me. I look like a dirt monkey. True. I'm among the world of missing men. I'm so insignificant if they sent out a radio call for me a hundred years nobody would find me. I could write my whole will on a postage stamp. Tell me, then, why should I sing my country tis of thee or welcome sweet springtime I greet 2 you in song. Economically I'm collapsed, not a single coin of the realm you'll find in my pocket, I ain't got enough real estate to put in a flower pot. And yet, my friend, you can never tell the way you stand by the way you're sitting down. I'm a could-have-been.

I could tell you something else I'm a genius and so forth, after all, you're a stranger to me. But it ain't what you call yourself, you can say you're Jesus and you ain't even St. Patrick. True? Well, I got lost inside a sweat shop like a fly in a house winter time. You go into it a man and you come out cockeyed hunch-backed knockneed pigeontoed flatchested - you're a washrag and a walking prospect for the undertaker. You gotta put a mark on your feet to know right from left. The cerebrum, the gray matter and the different parts of the cerebellum are deflated. So I was fired. The boss said he gotta make sacrifices he started with me. Before, I was lost, after I was still worse. I had bicycles in my brain. I was asking

Library of Congress

myself always: am I coming from or going to? Here I was free, the whole day in the air, in the sun but I was still groping, the park was the same as the shop. There's no sense to harp or criticize, when you're alone you can bark at the moon like a boogie dog, you can go sit down on the ground and open up your 3 mouth you'll catch mosquitoes, that's all. One swallow don't make a summer. A chain is strong like its weakest link and that was me. I don't say I didn't let off a lotta hot air in them trying times, it's a free country, I lived by my own oxygen. But also - we got a check and balance system here, there ain't no dictatorship, nobody gets away with murder, you can express yourself and manifest yourself, true, but the other guy can check up on you if he wants to.

Well, I got plenty checking up but in the end I was a citizen of the world. I didn't bow down to the dollar, I was international, a progressive. I followed the head, you understand, the others followed the rear end, they were retro -gressive. You find some people in this day and age they like to be both. If they're down in the Battery they're up in the Bronx too, these budweisers, these political fuckers. They claim if you're in a steam room at the highest temperature you're freezing and if you go into a frigidaire you're hot. Why does ice smoke? They tell you: because it went crazy with the frost. They're always arguings: if it's hot as it's warm while it's freezing it should be cold you think it's gonna be hot? Bah! I wouldn't stoop myself so low. The average man should think twice before he speaks and then - shut up.

4

Which reminds me - ain't it time for me too? Here I ain't got enough to buy doughnuts and I'm riding a whole cavalry of ideas. If I had my life to live over again I'd choose an existance of plenty. But, for the present, it's my opinion the government should take us over, otherwise it's better for us to shut out our eyes, the undertaker downtown got a special this week.

Library of Congress

Which means this, this whole spiel. It's an explosion, I mean an explanation, of one thing - I got cursed with a social consciousness and how much I would like to do something about it I can't. Brain I got plenty but the will power of a Chinese Eskimo.